

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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R 241230Z JAN 77
FM AMCONSUL ZAGREB
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4246
INFO USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ZAGREB 049

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, YO
SUBJECT: MORE ON BREZHNEV-TITO NOVEMBER 18, 1976 MEETING

REF: A) BELGRADE 266; B) 76 ZAGREB 1060 NOTAL

1. A YUGOSLAV OFFICIAL, WHO CLAIMED TO HAVE SEEN A TRANSCRIPT
OF THE NOV. 1976 TALKS BETWEEN BREZHNEV AND TITO, TOLD THE
CONSUL GENERAL THAT BREZHNEV HAD REQUESTED:

- A) SPECIAL PORT FACILITIES IN YUGOSLAVIA;
- B) OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS;
- C) COORDINATION BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS ON FOREIGN POLICY;
- D) BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS AT THE PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE LEVEL; AND
- E) THE ESTABLISHMENT OF YUGOSLAV-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP SOCIETIES.

TITO REPORTEDLY FIRMLY REJECTED EACH OF THESE REQUESTS AND THE
RESULTANT ATMOSPHERE WAS COOL AND SHARP.

2. ALTHOUGH HE STATED THAT THE PARTY FULLY ENDORSED TITO'S
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STAND AND TITO'S REFUSAL TO ABANDON YUGOSLAVIA'S NON-ALIGNED
POLICY, THIS YUGOSLAV OFFICIAL NEVERTHELESS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT
THERE WERE SOME IN THE PARTY WHO WOULD PROBABLY FAVOR CLOSER
RELATIONS TO THE USSR. HE SAID ONE COULD NOT CLEARLY IDENTIFY
THESE PRO-SOVIET YUGOSLAWS; THEY CONCEAL THEIR VIEWS, SO LONG
AS TITO IS AROUND.

3. BREZHNEV'S REQUESTS ARE REGARDED AS THE BASIS FROM WHICH SOVIET PRESSURES ON YUGOSLAVIA WILL FLOW, HE STATED. THIS YUGOSLAV AS WELL AS OTHERS IN AND OUT OF THE PARTY HAVE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WOULD SOON MAKE A PUBLIC STATEMENT SUPPORTING AN INDEPENDENT YUGOSLAVIA.

4. BELGRADE COMMENT: ABOVE VERSION OF BREZHNEV-TITO TALKS RESEMBLE THOSE WE HAVE BEEN GETTING FROM NUMEROUS YUGOSLAV SOURCES NOW FOR OVER A MONTH. WHILE THIS CAMPAIGN CLEARLY IN PART DESIGNED TO ELICIT U.S. SUPPORT, WE STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT ISOLATED PUBLIC STATEMENT OF SUPPORT IS NOT BEST FORM OF RESPONSE. YUGOSLAVS COMMENTED ABOUT LATER VERSION OF CARTER STATEMENT ON YUGOSLAVIA DURING CAMPAIGN THAT IT COULD NOT HAVE BEEN BETTER EVEN IF THEY HAD WRITTEN IT THEMSELVES AND YET THEIR DEEP CONCERNS PERSIST (SEE BELGRADE 233 AND KAISER-SEYMOUR LETTER OF JANUARY 21). THUS PROBLEM WILL NOT BE SOLVED WITH WORDS, WHICH IF VOLUNTEERED FOR NO SPECIAL OCCASION LIKELY TO ONLY MAKE YUGOSLAVS MORE NERVOUS AND SUSPICIOUS THAN THEY ALREADY ARE. BETTER APPROACH WOULD BE "DEEDS" CONGEN KAISER MENTIONS IN HIS LETTER AND WHICH WE HAVE DETAILED IN RECENT MESSAGES, E.G. MOVEMENT ON KRSKO, MILITARY SALES OR EARLY INVITATION TO KARDELJ OR DOLANC FOR U.S. VISIT.
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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